

DISCUSSION ON GRAMMAR - Primary Organization of Thoughts

GRAMMAR - not only the rules developed and applied to the ordering of word/concepts for verbal expression and communication in the form of a sentence, but our first contact with thinking systematically about reality. Put simply, this is the initial, self-conscious technique used in properly (that is, discursively and sequentially) organizing factual data into a coherent body of knowledge on a particular subject. This includes a broader definition of grammar which targets any and all formal topics, not only that of a specific and unique language but also of any specialized field-of-study - like biology, mathematics, or linguistics (as a few examples) - which has its own unique and specialized lexicon.

Grammar usually connotes the rules of language to express thought. This suggests the *primacy of language* in grammar. It is called "special grammar" which properly relates words to other words within a particular language like English, German, or Latin. The grammar to be described is intended to establish the *primacy of thought*; that is, using grammar to initially organize our thoughts. This is called "general grammar" which properly relates thought to reality or to that which exists (these are the primary rules of existence as processed by humans).

In a slightly different statement, the various parts of speech are consistent through all specialized languages and formal fields-of-study: that is, words serving as nouns, as verbs, as adjectives, and as prepositional phrases (for example) may sound and be written differently, but they serve the same purpose regardless of the language or formal subject in which they are used.

Single words by themselves have no meaning beyond what they denote. A word is not a complete thought. "Slow", "green", "above", "bird", only point out phenomena like actions, attributes, relations, and things (respectively) - they are not complete thoughts. A sentence, a series of words containing a subject and a predicate, is the first representation of a *complete thought* which has meaning. At times, a thought needs more than a word representing a thing (a substantive; a noun or pronoun), and another word stating something about the subject upon which the thought is predicated (a verb), but also a word or words standing for something to complete the thought, something which completes the meaning of the predicate, a complement or an object. (Note the spelling of *compl-e-ment* which refers to being completed. It is different from the more commonly used term referring to admiration, spelled *compl-i-ment*.) This is the basic structure of conceptual thought: subject, predicate, and complement; or subject, verb, and object. In so called progressive schools, this is stated as a thing (a substantive) which performs an action or describes a state of being (a verb) upon another thing which is acted upon (an object, which is also a substantive). Grammar can be used for efficiently organizing a number of such similar basic thoughts into a more complex composition for subjection to analysis and/or synthesis (these last two concepts will be discussed in #3 - On Logic). The type of sentence which declares something - something which can be affirmed or denied - is the one which will be discussed. Sentences which ask questions, state commands, or make an exclamation cannot be

subject to opinion (i.e., affirmed or denied). Declarative sentences are the only ones which can be called *propositions*. A series of simple propositions and propositional arguments constitute complete, integrated bodies of knowledge; or, they can stand and be judged on their own.

Example - Definition / Sentence

Existence - is every *substance, attribute, action, and relationship* that is, was, or ever will be.

Written in terms of General Grammar

Existence - is every noun, adjective / adverb, verb, and prepositional phrase that occurs through the three dimensions of time.

Concepts of Existence

Substance - a person, a place, or any substantial *thing* perceived through the five "Instruments of Knowledge"; the five senses: **Pronouns and Nouns**

Action- those things that nouns do, as in motion or states of being: **Verbs**

Attribute - property of an entity like color, dimension, quantity or quality of force, etc.:

Adjectives (noun modifiers) & speed, direction, state of rest, etc., **Adverbs** (verb modifiers).

Relationship - comparisons among existents, usually spatial and/or temporal:

Prepositions - *Words* which connect other words to show the relationship among the items those words represent within a prepositional phrase; like next to, on top of, or uncle of.

Concepts of Consciousness

The words **or, and, but, etc.**, are words and concepts to show relationships among *thoughts* and are used for unit economy in communication: **Conjunctions**

These are seven of the nine essential components in the study of grammar, presented in the logical order, if not the chronological order, in which they were probably developed for expression and communication. The other two are articles (*a* or *an* and *the*) placed before a noun to show whether it is general or particular, and exclamatory interjections (words which can stand alone as a sentence, like - *Wow!* or *Yea!*). All other grammatical structures are details within them.

The words as used are not necessarily the identifying parts of speech in the example-definitional sentence, but it is meant to illustrate that the order in grammar refers to items and events in reality; to the universe around us and not just to some arbitrary rules of

mere writing or speech as prescribed by *authorities or social conventions* such as was unsuccessfully attempted when the rules of Latin were applied to English? This is the way the human mind begins to interact with its environment, its surrounding natural existence, in its uniquely conceptual capacity.

Grammar, as mentioned initially, can be applied to all subjects and propositions, not just those that deal with language. The data comprising any topic can be ordered by defining what is acting or relating, the subject ([pro-]nouns and modifiers); the names of the actions or relationships themselves (verbs / prepositions and modifiers); and that which is being acted upon or related to - the object. This primary-level organization is now ready to be understood (scrutinized or proven) by subjection to the rules of logic. In logic, for example, entire phrases or sometimes paragraphs within a proposition or an argument need to be identified as subject, predicate, and complement (technically this is termed "subject" and "*theme*") so as to be analyzed deductively (see #3, On Logic).

SUMMARY

- > The work of grammar is to identify, gather, and discursively arrange raw, factual data of a similar nature into a specific body-of-knowledge.
- > The effect of grammar is to produce primary, or first-order, knowledge of a subject.